

Sandler Foundation

Our Mission

We invest in strategic organizations and exceptional leaders that seek to improve the rights, opportunities and well-being of others, especially the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Our Approach

We believe that transformative change requires strong **leaders** and well-managed organizations with significant capacity and the ability to adapt to changing circumstances. Accordingly, we focus on providing meaningful levels of **general support** to a limited number of outstanding organizations.

We have **high standards** for what we fund and conduct extensive **due diligence** to evaluate leaders and organizations. We are not motivated to fund solely by an organization's mission; rather, a compelling mission needs to be combined with great leadership and the **ability to execute** and affect change. We provide **long-term support** to outstanding organizations that combine these attributes.

We view nonprofit leaders and organizations as the experts and agents of change. It is about them, not us. We are not micro-managers, but rather view our role as “macro-managers” focused on big picture issues like maintaining high standards of **excellence**, pursuing ambitious goals and sound strategies, and assembling a high-quality team that can execute and manage risk effectively.

We look for opportunities to **add value** beyond just our funding and often work with grantees to catalyze their expansion and/or improved operating capacity so they can have greater reach and impact for the long-term.

We have a high tolerance for **risk** and look for opportunities for **leverage**. We have launched new organizations to fill the **gaps** when we could find outstanding leadership. We often issue challenge grants to encourage other donors to support organizations.

We strive for **impact** that makes a real and lasting difference in the lives of large numbers of people. We primarily fund nationally — not locally, regionally or internationally — and we support policy advocacy, not direct services. We are a **spend-down** foundation with a lean staff. We do not structure ourselves around program areas or spread funds among many groups in a field.

We do not review unsolicited proposals.

For additional information, please go to www.sandlerfoundation.org.